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To the Generals, and Captains, Officers, and Souldiers of this present Army; The Just and Equal appeal, and the state of the Innocent Cause of us, who have been turned out of your Army for the exercise of our pure Consciences, who are now persecuted amongst our Brethren, under the name of Quakers.

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*And this is an Invitation of Love to you all.*

**F**OR as much as we the Faithful Friends of this Common-wealth, and well-wishers for the Peace and good Government thereof, who have undergone many great Dangers and hard Tryals, and sore Battels (with you) for the purchasing Peace and Freedom in temporal and Spiritual Liberties in body and Spirit, to our selves, and to this whole Nation; and hereby we do testify unto you in the sight of the Lord, and in the face of all people, That the first Cause and Ground of our engagement in the late Wars against the Bishops and Prelates, and against King and Lords, and the whole body of Oppressours; our first engagement we say against these, was justly and truly upon that account of purchasing and obtaining Liberties in Civil Rights, and also in matters of Conscience in the exercise of the Worship of God for our

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• selves and others that were then bound under, and oppressed, by the unrighteous Laws and Injunctions, and false Impositions, heavily and unjustly lying upon the tender Consciences of many, when we first engaged in the Wars; and we can faithfully say, that the Liberty of Conscience, and the true Freedom of the Nations from all their oppressions, was the Mark at which we aimed, and the Harbour for which we hoped, and the rest proposed in our minds, as the absolute end of our long and tedious travel; and in this cause, and in these engagements we certainly know the Lord appeared with us, and for us; and he owned us by evident Testimony of his acceptance of our endeavours, in appearing for us in many and difficult seasons and engagements, insomuch that our enemies were subdued before us, and many cruel bonds of oppression were broken, many unjust Laws and Impositions upon peoples Consciences were broken down; & the Lord carried us in a fair progress towards the attaining of our desired end, and we were once made glad with the appearance of that fair blossome, and appearance of fruit, even Liberty and Freedom to this Nation from all her bondage, and that did more satisfy us, as the reward of all our labours, then any earthly advantage unto our selves; and while this work prospered towards the Freedom of tender Consciences, we were satisfied. But now alas, alas! we are forced to take up a Lamentation, even for you, and for this whole Nation; Why? Because the Cause hath been lost, and the End diverted; and all our hopes have been turned backwards, and the end of our travel hath been made void; and as for Liberty of Conscience, and the Freedom of these Nations, the blossome hath been long again withered, and grown dead, and oppression and false impositions doth yet weigh down the tender Consciences under sorrow and tribulations, and the bondage of this Nation is not removed, but even the former slavery hath been again revived.

vived under another appearance, so that we may sit down and lament ; yea, we have mourned already in the deep sense of these things, and our hearts are even broken with the consideration hereof.

First, In respect of you we have mourned and lamented, because of your degeneration from your first principles, and apostacy from the first good cause, the Cause hath been lost, and the Mark extinguished, and Liberty of Conscience hath been quite forgotten by you ; even for the profits, honour and riches of this World, which have stolen away your hearts after them, and caused you to forget your first engagement ; and eaten out the zeal and sincerity for God and his people, which once was in you. Alas ! we have not seen this long while, that zeal among you which once there was, and you have left off to prosecute that Noble Cause, which once your hearts were inflamed with love unto, and you have lost your dear respect unto the Cause of Gods people, and a deadnes and barrennes have been upon you ; and you can now suffer them that fear the Lord, whose Consciences are tender to God, to lye in Holes and Dungeons, and that their blood be shed, and take no notice ; you can now suffer the cry of their oppression to pass by your ears, without the breaking of heart ; and you can now suffer the poor Lambs of Christ to be prisoned, and their goods spoiled by unrighteous men, and unjust Laws ; and these things once you could not have done (we are witnesses) you can now suffer the hainous oppression of Tithes to lye upon the Consciences of the Lords people, and you can now suffer this unequal way of maintaining Ministers by casting mens persons in holes and prisons, and making havock of their goods, which once you could not have done ; and you now can suffer many innocent babes to be inhumanly whipped, and unjustly banished ; and much cruelty done unto them, (a sad witness of this have been within these six years) and you now can swallow all this which once would not have

been resented by you, but even cryed against, and abhorred by you and rejected; Oh! what is become of you, how we may lament you? whose zeal for God hath been perished, and who have made havock and loss of that good Cause once intrusted with you, how have you neglected it, and turned to your own interests, and the Cause of God and his people hath not long been vindicated by you with that faithfulness which once it was, our hearts are melted and madesad with the view of these things, even when we look deeply into your degeneration, which you are fallen into; being swallowed up with the drofs of this Worlds enjoyments, and the good old Cause of Liberty it hath hardly appeared among you; so that we are ready to say, what is become of that Noble Spirit that once was aniongst you? and we cannot but lament for you in respect of your own selves, for your Glory hath been fallen, and your Crown covered, and sincerity and zeal for God you have been spoiled of by the betrayer; and you have been deformed, and your beauty perished which once you were covered withal, and this is come to pass, because you have turned to seek your own interest, and you have sitten down in the honour and pleasures of this World, and have taken your rest and ease before you had finished the work for which you were ordained, and you had almost left the Nations to be overgrown again with Tyranny, Oppression and Cruelty, even as it was before; so that because of your degeneration the Nations and the upright people groans under the heavy burden of grievous Bondage, & because of your Apostacy from your first Principles, and because you were not faithful to the end, even therefore are these things come to pass; this unjustice upon us, and this oppression upon the Nations; and this we cannot but charge upon you, that you have proved unfaithful workmen in that good work, once put into your hands, and of it will the Lord require an account of you.

Secondly, Again we do lament the Nations who are left

left in slavery and bondage ; how doth many oppressions abound , and how doth our Brethren the people of God suffer cruel and hard things , what casting into Prisons , Dungeons , Holes and Houses of Correction , even for righteousnes's sake , and because they are followers of the Lamb ; how is their goods spoiled , and made a prey through the greedy , dumb , idle shepherds , that goes in *Cains* and *Balaams* way , and are devourers of the flock ? you cannot be ignorant of these things , for the cry thereof within these few years hath reached through the World , and the unjust suffering of Gods people hath reached to Heaven ; what oppression by Tithes , and what oppression in the Laws doth abound , what cpressions are there abounding through the Lawyers , and through unjust Judges ? Even the whole Land mourns under it ; and was it not in your hearts once to have Corrected and Regulated all these things ? but because of your unfaithfulness , oppressions remains , and you have left the burden of grievous bondage upon the poor innocent people of God , and you your selves have escaped the weight thereof , through the flatteries of men and this Worlds honour , which have turned the afflictions from your selves , and the poor people of God they bear the weight of your unfaithfulness , and your eye hath seemed to be shut from the oppressions of the poor , and you have taken no notice , but unto your ac-compt , will the sufferings of the Lords people be put in a great measure , in the day when God shall judge you , and when the Lord makes you sensible of these things , your own consciences shall pierce you , and you shall cry ; Oh ! what have we done ? and how have we been fallen ? Wherefore out of our dear and tender love to the seed of God amongst you , that you may not utterly perish , are we moved with one consent to call upon you , to return to your first principles , and to come out of this Worlds honour and renown which hath

almost choked you,\* and eaten out the good from amongst you, and you have left the good cause to be despised, and the people of God to be troden down, and your own selves are in no small danger also, except you return to respect the cause of God, and his suffering people, and to mind the freedom and liberty of the Nations, and to stand up in the Lords power against their enemies ; wherefore be awakened and stirred up to look unto the cause of the oppressed, and remove Tyranny, and Injustice, and remember that Gods presence was with you while you were faithful to him, and when you lost the power of God, and declined the good cause of liberty, then you fell into snares your selves, and left the Lords people in bondage, and let up the old spirit of Tyrany over the nations, even to your own perpetual danger, and if you yet return to the principal of God in your selves, zeal for God, and zeal for Righteousness will yet stir in you, and the Lord may yet recover you, and make you honourable ; for we believe there may be yet something to do for you, and if you come to the witnessesse of God in your hearts, and to sincerity, you will see what God requires of you, and from you, and if you be faithful to his leading, he will therein be with you, and set you over your enemies.

And as for us, we do now declare, that not for any offence, or breach of any Law Marshal or Civel, were we cast out from among you, but onely by the injustice of men for the exercise of our consciences towards God; and when we came to receive the end of our long travel with you, to wit, liberty of our conscience from God, then through the degeneration of your selves from your first principals did we suffer, who kept in faithfulness to the liberty of our consciences, and to our first principals, and could not respect persons, nor flatter men, nor let them have Lordship over our consciences, and because of this onely, did we suffer among you the loss of our places, and all that was dear unto us, even for the exercise of our

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pure consciences, and without any other offence; for we were never otherwise minded, then to have stood in defence for the Nations against their enemies and though they that cast us out intended evil to us in these things, yet hath God turned it to our great good, and we are more confirmed and strengthened in the life and power of God, and brought to a Kingdom that is not of this World, and have peace and rest in him over all the troubles and distractions and dangers which is befallen you, through your own Apostacy, and we rest contented in the habitation of peace, suffering patiently under all with our poor brethren, till the Lord arise and plead our cause against all our enemies; and our kingdom, and victory, and weapons are not from below, but from Heaven, and out of wars and strife, are we come to the rest for our souls, that is in God over all the troubles and destructions that comes upon men, and our goverment is established, and our Kingdom cannot be touched, for they are not subiect to change; yet nevertheless, we as once fellow members, and fellow louldiers with you, in a good cause, and upon good engagements, wish well towards you in the Lord, and that you may shake off your bondage, and be renewed out of your degeneration into the power and dominion which sets you over all your & Gods enenies, cast off your bondage of earthly enjoyments, let that be the least in your account (though if you be faithful to the Lord, he will bless you with that also.)

But rather seek the old foundation, which once was laid, though it hath long been fallen down, and be revived in your hearts, and follow justnesse, and righteousness, and purge your selves inwardly, and outwardly, and have the cause of God, and all that fear him in respect before your eye, that you may obtain the desired end of freedom, and liberty from all oppression, and wait upon the Lord for his counsel to lead you, and be at unity in your hearts, all seeking the cause of God, and none your

your own glory ; for if you honour God in faithfulness, then will he also honour you with truth and peace, and victory, your day is not yet wholly shut up, now while you have time, prize it, and let the Lord work in you, and by you, and in seeking the honour of God, and the freedom of his people, and the liberty of these Nations, you have our desires for you, and prayers that you may prosper, and the Lord doth hear the faithful in what they desire of him.

The Nations cannot be settled in peace, nor receive the blessing upon their goverment, while the just lies in captivity, and the Servants of the Lord in prison.

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THE END.

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